

Remarks/Arguments:

In accordance with the Examiner Interview of 9 February 2006, claim 1 is amended to recite "a first catalyst supported on a material consisting of an electrically non-conducting support." Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification, particularly at page 6, line 30 through page 7, line 4. No new matter is added.

Claim 1 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by Hausler (U.S. Patent No. 3,881,957). As agreed upon with the Examiner, amended claim 1 is distinguishable from the support in Hausler. Amended claim 1 requires a catalyst supported on a material that consists of an electrically non-conducting support. On the other hand, Hausler discloses a semi-conducting support made from monolayer of a carbonaceous pyropolymer forming at least a monolayer on a refractory oxide.

The previous claims were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hausler in view of Wilkinson et al. (EP 0 736 921). As indicated above, Hausler fails to teach each and every limitation of the claimed invention, particularly, a catalyst supported on a material that consists of an electrically non-conducting support. Wilkinson et al. fails to supply the missing teaching of Hausler.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicant respectfully submits the claims are patentable over the cited references and requests that they be allowed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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